

REMARKS

By way of the instant amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been cancelled. New claim 9 has been added. Thus, claims 5 and 9 remain for examination.

Claim 9 has been added in order to more readily distinguish applicant's invention from the applied prior art. The subject matter of claim 9 includes many of the elements recited in original claims 1-4. For example, claim 9 is directed toward a fault management system for a switching equipment which includes a circuit section connected to an external terminal equipment over a communication circuit, a switch section for communicating data with said circuit section, and a processor for performing setting and control of the circuit section, protocol processing of a transmission/reception packet and other necessary processing over a processor bus. The fault management system comprises a clock fault detection section for detecting whether or not the supply of a clock signal from an oscillator for supplying the clock signal to the processor is interrupted and a concentrated fault management section connected to the clock fault detection section and the processor bus for supervising the normality of the processor bus and continuously signaling, if a fault notification of the interruption of the supply of the clock signal is received from the clock fault detection section, a reset signal to the processor and the circuit section so that data in a data link layer or an upper layer may not flow.

Applicant's invention as recited above is not anticipated by the applied prior art Simone reference nor is it made obvious by the combination of Simone in view of Nakamura. In this connection it is noted that applicant's recitation includes the terminology "continuously signaling". While such "continuous signaling" may be automatic, the term continuously also implies that the signal is not merely automatic but is rather continuously generated until, of course, the reset actually takes place. This limitation is not disclosed in the prior art references nor is it made obvious thereby. Moreover, the continuous signaling aspect of applicant's invention is only part of the overall claimed invention as recited in newly submitted independent claim 9. It is noted that the concentration fault management section is connected to the clock fault detection section and the processor bus for supervising the normality of the processor bus and continuously signaling, if a fault notification of the

interruption of the supply of the clock signal is received from the clock fault detection section, a reset signal to the processor bus and the circuit section so that a data link layer or an upper link layer may not flow. Such limitations are not disclosed in the prior art references of Simone taken singly or in combination with Nakamura.

In view of the new claim added hereto and the arguments set forth above, it is submitted that applicant's claims are patentable over the prior art.

The examiner is requested to acknowledgement receipt of the claim for convention priority as well as the certified copy of the priority document, all of which were filed together with applicant's specification on June 7, 2000.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

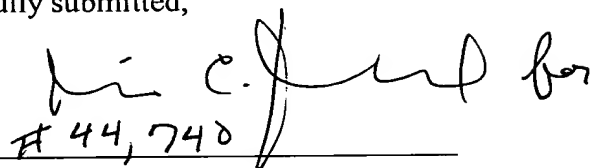
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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